ISASC

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

President's Newsletter

Number 42. April, 1989.

SAN FRANCISCO IS THE PLACE.

Depending on the mails, by the time this missive reaches you, 100 or more of us either will be on our way to, in the middle of, or back home from our 11th convention. The good times are taking place at the Sir Francis Drake hotel in the City by the Bay, and co-chairmen Bill Doniger and Dale Reed report that the turnout will exceed our previous high by a good number. From what we've learned, the program will be especially entertaining, with equal emphasis on pure pleasure and much metrology. Even though this missive is being written on the eve of the event, it's certainly not premature to thank Bill and Dale and their hard-working committee for their stalwart efforts, with more thanks, deservedly so, to be forthcoming in appropriate ways. And to those of you who won't be with us, you can expect a detailed report of the goings-on in the next President's Newsletter in mid-July.

AND PHILADELPHIA BECKONS.

Yes, we're already planning our next convention in the City of Brotherly Love. Emil Cohn and Lew Weiss, our co-chairmen, have let no grass grow under their feet or anywhere else. The weekend date is set, May 11-13, 1990, to be specific, one of Philadelphia's finest hostelries already has been booked for the occasion, and Emil and Lew

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already are busy working on the program. So if they're doing all that, it seems a good time to suggest that you mark the dates on your 1990 calender (or hang a note on the kitchen wall) and plan to be with us.

MONEY MATTERS.

Yes, it does, and the financial affairs of our society are being ably handled these days by treasurer Jan Macho. Among his other duties, Jan has provided us with the enclosed financial statement for the year 1988, and as you'll note, our resources have increased during that time. That means ISASC is looking much healthier by becoming a little wealthier. Thank you, Jan, for keeping the records and for being the bearer of such glad tidings.

SCALE EPHEMERA.

Some months ago, member Eric Newman of St. Louis told us of a rare souvenir booklet published in 1893 by E. & T. Fairbanks & Co. of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, to commemorate the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Eric, in a stroke of good fortune, had acquired a copy of the booklet, and in typical generous fashion, offered it to ISASC to reproduce and make available to our members. We seized on the opportunity , and your officers decided it would be feasible, rather than sell it as we do our other library offerings, to make a gift of it to each of you as a token of our appreciation for your support.

So that's what we've done, and that's what's enclosed in this mailing. Relying on the skills of Tod Carley (our resident publisher), we printed 500 copies, 230 of which are for our present membership and the balance for new members for some years to come. Again, we want to thank Eric for thinking of us and for letting us borrow the original, a truly precious possession.

WHO'S NEW IN OUR WHO'S WHO?

Which is a sly way of referring to our 1989 directory, also enclosed in this mailing. It's an up-to-date listing of all our North American members and a valuable reference, whether you're staying close to home or traveling here and there on vacation or business. Members tell us of its various uses, frequently enabling them to call or correspond with other members during their traveling and, in so

doing, making new friends. We'll continue to send you quarterly updates, but for the present it's as current as human hands can make it, and we suggest you immediately put it in your directory folder.

AND ON THE SELF-SAME SUBJECT.

This time, however, having to do with the European Chapter membership directory. Last year, sensing a use for it similar to our own directory, we included it in our library list and offered our members a copy of it at no charge. Our instincts turned out to be accurate, as we received a number of requests for it. However, we regret to tell you that in the intervening time, due, in part, to the demise of Michael Crawforth, the Euro-Chapter has not been up to the task of producing a current directory. We hope they'll be able to do so in the future, but in the interim, we wanted to let you know why we weren't able to comply with the requests we received. When it is available, we'll let everyone know as soon as possible. Meanwhile, we do appreciate your understanding.

MISCELLANY.

** In mid-March, we received an inquiry from Judy C. McDermott, Chief of The Library of Congress, asking if the Library could be the recipient of a complimentary subscription to EQM. Needless to say, after practically no deliberation, we proceeded to send Ms. McDermott Issue #1, 1989, advise her that the Library henceforth would receive EQM, and tell her to let us know if they'd like a complimentary set of all back issues. From our vantage point, it's quite a feather in ISASC's cap to know that EQM is now part and parcel of the The Library of Congress. (I don't know about you, but I'm telling everyone whose path I cross.)

** Late last fall we received another in a series of interesting letters from "down under" members Ray and Eileen Park. In their letter, they asked a question which is transmitted herewith verbatim. If you can give them an answer, send it to Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Park, 93 Widgee Road. Noranda 6062, Western Australia.

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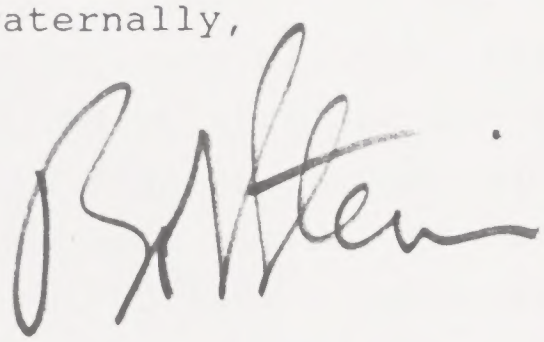
"We would like to know if you, or anyone you know, is able to tell us what kind of paint or what method was used, to put the advertising literature (Editor's note: decals? labels?) on the glass plates used on some shop scales early in the century. Was it a transfer, or baked on, or what?"

And now, in a few short days, we're off to San Francisco, and will have much to tell you when we next write in mid-summer.

Fraternally,